The Memphis Appeal.

PUBLISHED Daily, Tri-Weekly and Weekly JOHN R. MCCLANAHAN..... BENJAMIN F. DELL Under the firm and style of MCCLANAHAN & DILL,

To whom all letters on business, or otherwise, should be addressed. Terms of Subscription.

Daily Rates of Advertising. For one square of ten lines or less, one insertion. \$1.00

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Perilous Change of Military Base!

BATTLE OF GALYEST MILLS.

Battle of Savage Station.

RATTLE OF WHITE OAK SWAMP. Five Days' Furious Conflict!

Special Correspondence Cincinnati Commercial.] JAMES RIVER, VIRGINIA, ? Tossday Evening, July 1, 1862.

Oh! friends, could you realize the afflictions of the past five days, you could almost shed tears of blood. Said a noble and gallant soldier, whose visage was wan, whose voice was tremuarmy have won title to immortality. Whatever real beginning of the dreary drama. You will fate betide them, their children's children may find a description of it in another letter. The proudly boast, "Our Fathers were of the Army | Mechanicsville battle was the second act, which

The soil of Virginia is now sacred. It is bathed with the redest blood of this broad land. Every road of it, from Upper Chickahominy to the base of Malvern Hill, is crimsoned with the blood of your brave brethren. The dark forests -fitting canopy for such woful sacrifics-echo with the walls of wounded and dying men There is a bloody corpse in every copse, and mangled soldiers in every thicket of that ensanguined field. Side by side they lie and dielately fought. God only knows how many of the weary ones, plunged headlong into the there now to sleep the sleep that knows no waking. But while I write these lines the foe pressas hard. Our soldiers turn their breasts to the steel. Their backs are upon the river. Oh God, shall they not shoul where they now light

too, by great pride-to be made how your breth-Oaks, and the weeks of watching and fight of in view of the spires of Richmond !- how ! sy fought and conquered on Wednesday last; iw they fought and won on Thursday; how hay Sunday, and Monday and Tuesday they marched, and suffered, and fought, as if every soldier had the soul of a hero in his frame, until at last when nature's emergies almost exhaust gering but unconquerable, and met the sumneart. Bo* an how cruel, friends, that such brave so should be pressed almost to the very brink of ruin. They stood up still, with want pressing them, with fatigue crushing them, and at every summons to the field they followed the old flag with cheers, like the songs of Gods. There was a moral heroism displayed by those

But the record. With such feeble power as I can exert, after nights of sleepleasness and days though, with our weary soldier's troubles, than the labor of a pigmy with the works of Hercupresent the salient points in advance.

bard upon Richmond. Every communication of infantry fire, and Martindale's brigade came and when Jackson was repulsed the third time, to the press assured you that it was not strong up to be ready for emergencies. At dark it was enough to execute the task. For weeks the evident the rebels had enough-much more than not renew the attempt. symptoms of insufficiency of power manifestly they bargained for. Richmond it could not be withdrawn without it was obvious that they were withdrawing un- It was in massing troops and making sudden great peril. Gen. McClellan was committed to der cover of their artillery. Our own batteries, onslaughts on this and then on that portion of

burg road. It provoked a sharp resistance, which we overcame, and accomplished our object. It is necessary to note this fact particuour right wing. It was deemed hazardous to naintain the advantage of the previous day, and he line was ordered to resume its old position. Thursday afternoon the anticipated attack upon our right wing was made, and handsomely re lsed; but it was discovered that it had not en made by Jackson's command. Informa-

n was received that Jackson was sweeping lown the Pamunkey, probably to capture mili-ary stores at White House, to cut off our comication with our water base, and menace r rear. Orders were given at once to destroy ate that point. Matters began to assume a critid appearance, and danger culminated in the

The reader being supposed to be familiar with e war map, will now follow the course pursued y the army. In order to preserve the morals of crimson drops were trickling from his wound mined to carry through all the wagons loaded, ug wherever we turn : source a hope of extri- almost due south from the Williamsburg, road, highest in the empyrean. Oh, the gloomy that the enemy might cut us off by moving col-countenances and anxious hearts of those dark umms down the Charles City, Central or New the enemy. Would to God such days had passed Market roads, or all three, but these chances rior masses of disciplined soldiery—but content in only hopeful course, because the enemy was supported Weed's, Edward's and Tidball's bat bered only fifteen hundred, with Lieut-Col. fighting and murching, and privations by day, a raighty torrent of trains and men, but fortu-and suffering by night, and fighting by days nately it was smooth and dry. In order to make aucceeding nights of fighting and harmssing the movement successfully, it was necessary to wighls, against fresh forces buried upon them in light at the outset, because it was morally ceroverpowering masses, till exhausted nature tain that our line of battle could not be with ost sunk beneath such fearful visitations, to drawn from the front without sucking the enemy be pressed to the imminent verge of despair, after them-so that due preparations were made dure. Oh, what a glorious spirit of devotion to with as much of the spirit of the perilous entercountry, that inspires men to conquer such dis- prise thrown into the sketch as I have time to

BATTLE OF MECHANICSVILLE.

as a corps of observation and to check flanking ovements; or, if possible, to decay the enemy lown the Panunkey. At about noon, a power-ul corps of the enemy, consisting of Gen. A. Lee, crossed the river at Mechaniesville tween one and two o'clock attacked our flank. Two regiments of Mead's brigade, (McCall's Division.) were in reserve, and one on picket the enemy. Gen. Reynolds' brigade held the right, and Seymour's the left. The fight was opened with artillery, at long range, but the this arm, for eshertened the range, and came into close conflict. He was evidently provoked at accustomed for months to the incessant roat of back in disorder. Again he gathered his col

sary, however, to carry you over the field and ate fellows were pushed at the breastworks, only to be more cruelly slaughtered than before Meantime, our force had been strengthened by, o the enemy against our right did not suc You remember that the army was pressing Grifflith's brigade, which increased the volume | coad. We extended our line at the same time, Their infantry fire had entirely subsided and

in front of Woodbury's bridge, where he was posted, his left joining the right of Butterfield's the extreme right—the line occupying crosts of veterans as over shouldered a musket. east by south of Gaines' Mills. A portion of the position was good, but judicious generalip might have found a better and especially t might have been amended by posting the left public property at White House and evacu- flank upon a swamp which was impassable beyoud peradventure. Besides, the line was so disposed that it was next to impossible to use aster of Friday. It was then fully determ- our artillery advantageous-the very arm in BATTLE OF MECHANICSVILLE, ined to "change the base of operations to James which we have enjoyed undoubted superiorty. The enemy had turned our right, evidently out my, but it was assumed that he would appear ambered us in great disproportion, was too stronger than yesterday. Accordingly, Gen. rong in front for us to break through, and was | Slocum's division (about 8000 strong) was moved position to crush us in front and rear-and, across the river to support Porter, although haps, intended to strike on our left flank. was deemed hazardous in consequence pparently his army was numerous enough for pending attack along our whole front. But that grand combination. The great retrograde there was no alternative; Gen. McClellan had the transfer of headquarters from Trent's Bluffs to Savage Station, but the grand exodus did not commence until Saturday, and did not swell into full proportions till nightfall of that day. The history of that movement will follow in dus course.

House by railroad and telegraph was interrupted, but soon after eleven the lines ceased to vibrate intelligibly.

From headquarters from Trent's Bluffs that he should use it according to unavoidable mecessity. Thus far I carry the reader in this front. Battle was imminent on the entire line sharp glare of electricity recorded the truth in slice of fire. No combination of the strong still stood at the breast works from that movement will follow in dus on after eleven the lines ceased to vibrate intelligibly.

From headquarters I passed along our lines. The troops still stood at the breast works from that movement will follow in dus on the picket lines and no respite for any. So strangely but soon after eleven the lines ceased to vibrate intelligibly.

From headquarters I passed along our lines. The troops still stood at the breastworks ready to secure the benefits of a division of labor. He was evident they had begun and blinding to a distressing depart that he should use it according to unavoidable but soon after eleven the lines ceased to vibrate intelligibly.

From headquarters I passed along our lines of fire. No combination of the stood in line of battle; but it was evident they had begun and blinding to a distressing depart that he should use it according to unavoidable but soon after eleven the lines ceased to vibrate intelligibly.

From headquarters I passed along our lines of fire. No combination of the foot any representation, either that he should use it according to unavoidable but soon after eleven the lines ceased to vibrate intelligibly.

From headquarters I passed along our lines of fire. No combination of the foot any representation of the foot any representatio

BATTLE OF GAINES' MILL, PRIDAY, JUNE 27 TH. The battle opened about one o'clock by skirwhose visage was wan, whose voice was tremu-lous with inexpressible emotion, whose heard was matted with his ewn precious blood—the from the battery planted in the orchard near the even then-Oh! my friend, it is horrible! hor- and the ambulance train-making a mighty car- Gaines House. The enemy felt our position rible to see this proud army so wretchedly avan-vastly increased by artillery trains. There rapidly, and along the whole line at the same an overwhelming force in front, they still con pressed upon every side, destruction threaten- was but one narrow read to pursue. It struck time, showing that he was in full force. By two tinued to fight. The gallant Col. McLane and o'clock there had been several conflicts between eation save that which is born of despair. It is through White Oak awamp to the Charles City opposing regiments, without any particular re-borrible"—and the devoted soldier who had read, into which it debouched about eight miles suit, save that our men steadily maintained their faced the fee all day and far into the night which had passed, turned into the forest to hide his then lay up the latter road toward Richmond, whose front was covered by Berden's sharpshootcomost, you, too, would have echoed my noble with slight exception-it had the advantage of the extreme right, where the enemy appeared Weeden's Rhode Island battery from position in rear of the woods, plied shell again at the breast of the foe before the sun rode | tection of our flanks. There was great danger | and solid shot with accuracy and effect. This

The enemy delayed their assault upon our left for some time, though Martindale's brave fellows who were exceedingly well posted, gave them them to recoil with shattered columns up over the hill, down which they had advanced. brilliant episode occurred on the left of Martin-Maine were posted. A brigade of Alabamian

sisting of McCail's Pennsylvania Reserves, or the connuent enemy.

500 strong, with five batteries, were strongly intrenched there in admirable position for delease. Information, leading General McClellan to expect an attempt upon bis right had been received during Wednesday night, and we were received during Wednesday night, and we were was cleared as though swept by a hurricane.

Once of the connuent enemy.

The gray coats field in terror and dismay, distinged there in admirable position for deleast them back in front so easily. All on the road to Woodbury's bridge, quite a stampede took place among the stragglers who had been madees to have contended with an enemous place of disciplined troops in front was cleared as though swept by a hurricane.

Once of the issue we now deprecated. It was a grateful three houses, about equi distant fromeach other, on the road to Woodbury's bridge, quite a stampede took place among the stragglers who had been enough to hold the front. It was no close that the whites of the eyes of the stampede took place among the stragglers who had been madees to have contended with an equal force of disciplined troops in front or the residual of the contended of the property and the stampede took place among the stragglers who had been enough to hold the front. It was a grateful three houses, about equi distant fromeach other, on the residual of the issue we now deprecated. It was a grateful three houses, about equi distant fromeach other, on the contended three in admirable position for deleast the interior and dismay, distant fromeach other, on the contended three in admirable position for deleast the interior and the property of the property forces would admit. Gen. Fitz John Porter's dag upon the field. The regimental color was turn. They made a rush for the bridge, fol- tive but hasty retreat at the sacrifice of most of tery. As the enemy advanced, it opened hotly corps, consisting of Morrell's Division of Velunivers, and Sykes' Regulars, some 5,000 strong,
increased by Duryea's Zouaves, was posted near
New Bridge, within supporting distance. Gen
Stoueman, had also been sent to Old Church,
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the sacrine with a regiment of cavalry and two of infantry, over eighty near the spot where the colors fell.

The gallaut men of the famous light brigade, as already stated, had the important position of the extreme left of our line. "Their right rested into the woods, joining Martindale's right. They were somewhat sheltered by a ditch fence, and, when in position, looked up the hill through ade, as noted elsewhere, had been sent on special duty to another point.] Allen's Massachusett's battery took up a position on the right of the brigade, and battered the enemy fiercely. AT THREE O'CLOCK

The action had become general along the t progressed, and it finally became the most he met a galling fire from Edwards', Martin's, both parties quietly lay on their arms. terrific artillery combat of the war. I had been and Woodin's batteries, which sent him reeling heavy guns, but until that period I had failed to umns, supported them by fresh troops, again adcomprehend the terrible sublimity of a great vanced, extending his lines as if to flank our battle with field pieces. The uproar was incestight, and renewed the attack with greater fe a combined movement. Powerful bodies of tion and tenacity only to be expected from such troops plunged into the valley to charge our superior men. They suffered largely, their pelines, but our men, securely posted, swept them | culiar uniform being the especial mark of ten

THE PLANK MOVEMENT

below. Now and communication of the avenues of of the avenue of the avenues of the avenue of the avenue

Finding he could not force our center, the enbrigade, resting in the woods and near the emy gradually threw his columns against our swamps of Chickahominy. Morell was on his left, pressing Martindale's right wing very hard, right, in the center, and Gen. Sykes, command- where he met a gallant resistance from the 22d ng 5000 regulars and Duryea's zonaves held Massachusetts and 2d Maine regiments, as brave

> Suddenly the everlasting roar of musketry inierce grandeur and terrible reality of war ever rirayed. The thousand continuous velleys of a great cataract, while the londer and deeper discharges of artillery bounded forth over those hills and down that valley, with a volume that seemed to shake the earth beneath us. The oomily red in the heavens, while the clouds of field. ust in the rear, caused by the commotion of

For one hour and a half our left line withstood this terrible shock of battle. Brigade after brig sgain and again. Though decimated at every ischarge, losing heavily in officers, and with Major Nagle, of the 83d Pennsylvania, fell leathstricken, while line officers were stricken lown by scores, and men by the hundred. But they wavered not. Without a single reinforce

ment, from first to last, this gallant brigade maniy grief. Had you seen his worn and haggard warriors plunged wearily on the soil around
him, begrimmed with smoke, and some of them
stained with blood, and had you known that an
hour later those toward in New Market road.
The river was but a
short distance south, and Malyarn Hill—a beauitful lofty bluff, overlooking the river and comhour later those toward results starpshooted
for the was covered by Berden's suarpshoote
for the woods
fought on, cleared its front from the enemy time
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fought on, cleared its fought on, c lought on, cleared its front from the enemy time and stiffened with long fighting and weary manding the surrounding country, being our marching, would be summoned again to deadly goal. Although there was but a single road—tion. The 62d Pennsylvania took position on longer continue. The right was giving away longer continue. The right was giving away could be seen making their way toward the the message, before a rebel battery of heavy night of sorrow, without catastrophe. Officers river. "Once more, my gallant men," cried the brave Butterfield, and, rallying again, the men A moment later a strong brigade ponneed upon the great caravan and its escorts. No wink of cut their way through the opposing host, which his pickets, pressed them in irresistibly, and sleep again; no peace of mind for any who now assailed them in front, in flank and in rear, dashed at his battery. Burns was also at work. and fell back upon the river, crossing upon the His pickets had fallen back to their strong sup- hours. away forever. Oh, my countrymen, you can not comprehend the toils and trials of your devoted soldiers during those days of murderonsly voted soldiers during those days of murderonsly accepted. General McClellan was on the road, and trials of your devoted soldiers during those days of murderonsly voted soldiers during those days of murderonsly accepted. General McClellan was on the road and trials of your devoted soldiers during those days of murderonsly voted soldiers during those days of murderonsly accepted. General McClellan was on the road and tailen back to their strong support the trials of your devoted soldiers during the supposition that the enemy would be a day of murderonsly accepted. General McClellan was on the road and trials of your devoted soldiers during the supposition that the extreme right, held by Gen. Sykes' division, and a warm battle was in progress in the woods. The bullets ratiled briskly among our forces during the fight, and gathered together their scattered columns in the comparation until be was able to more division. At daylight Gen. McClellan was on the road woods. The bullets ratiled briskly among our forces during the fight, and gathered together their scattered columns in the comparation of artillery, intermingled with

one black mass of troops. The infantry sup- most mischievous of Southern politicians, Col. style : even, ready and resolute, with arms at | Hart's and Edward's batteries were left ex- once member of Congress. His lieutenant-coluright shoulder shift, ready for a charge. "Up posed and all of them fost a part of their arma. nel was also captured and at them." was the word along our inte, and ment. Most of Martindale's brigade were ral. But apprehensions When I closed my last communication, (26th the two regiments which had lain concealed in lied within thirty rods of the enemy, under a distressed officers all along. It seemed apparent the law growth of timber in the valley, sprang heroic call from Col. Roberts, of the 2d Maine, that if the enemy defeated him, ruin threatened of the Chickahominy, on the east side of Bes-ver Dam Creek. Our extreme right wing, con-sisting of McCail's Pennsylvania Reserves, of the confident enemy. from their regiments, and who had failed to re- and rear. There would have been no alterna- Zouaves—had been assigned to support a batan open field, on the top of which the enemy took position. They formed in line of battle, the 44th New York supported by the 16th Michigan, and the 83d Pennsylvania by the 12th New York. [The 17th New York, of this brigable to see the battery until they reached the crest of the hill, within one hundred yards of it, when Martin opened a bitter surprise upon them sweeping them from the field like chaff before a sterm. Twice again they formed, and dyanced, their officers behaving splendidly, out it was useless, Martin's fierce leaden rain structive in our intrenchments, while our gun- whole line. Stonewall Jackson's column had being too terrible to withstand. The advance

A NOBLE RALLY. vice in checking the flight of many panic strick- a case of desperation. With our force, we could seemed condensed into that one woful parting. woods whence he had issued, and quiet soon been madness. We had no hope of reinforce- our too limited hospitals, to wait the cold chariprevailed. But in almost less time than it takes ments. Besides, it was now too late for them | ties of bitter enemies. o write it, a scene of indescribable excitement, to form a junction with us, either by the Rappa- The advance column and all the mighty train front of the straggling crowd, and every device without opposition.

During the night, hoped for aid. If the enemy did not reinforce hoped for aid. If the enemy did not reinforce hoped for aid. If the enemy did not reinforce hoped for aid. If the enemy did not reinforce hoped for aid. If the enemy did not reinforce hoped for aid. If the enemy did not reinforce hoped for aid. If the enemy did not reinforce hoped for aid. If the enemy did not reinforce hoped for aid in the enemy did not reinforce hoped for aid. If the enemy did not reinforce hoped for aid our artillery and transportation trains were and our artillery and transportation trains were fanked by White Oak swamps, where part of and our artillery and transportation trains were in the might accomplish his aim. So the work was situation fully now, the caunomiers piled them or opportunity for he or others to indite our center. Part the might accomplish his aim. So the work was situation fully now, the caunomiers piled them or opportunity for he or others to indite our center. Part the might accomplish his aim. So the work was situation fully now, the caunomiers piled them of leaf to prepare to move forward. That night, the train at least could rest those who having spaced in the property of the he might accomplish his aim. So the work was present, while the people claimored that it was slow. The right wing, consisting of McCall's Morell's, and Syke's divisions, less than 25,000 strong, was well posted on the left bark of the Chickahominy, from Beaver Dam creek to a point below New Bridge. Several military operations of the cathorian pied them to safety the feell one of the safety the move forward. That night, for Jackson's column, reinforced by a large body in the midst of public distress. Calaminethe move forward. That night, for Jackson's column, reinforced by a large body in the midst of public distress. Calaminethe midst of public distress. Calam point below New Bridge. Several military bridges formed the avenues of communication of the status, and it was bridges formed the avenues of communication dent that three thousand felt. Our loss was lence. The columns surged backward and for loss was lence. The columns surged backward and for loss was lence. The columns surged backward and for loss was lence. The columns surged backward and for loss was lence. The columns surged backward and for loss was lence. The columns surged backward and for loss was lence. The columns surged backward and for loss was lence. The columns surged backward and for loss was lence. The columns surged backward and for loss was lence. The columns surged backward and for loss was lence and loss w between the two portions of the army separated eighty killed and less than one hundred and ward, first one yielding and then the other. An lost twenty pieces of artillery, and the arms, desirable to conceal the truth from them. It

burg road. It provoked: a sharp resistance, burg road as powerful train of artill leavy, regularly, because it Jackson's admirable army of 40,000 or 35,000 ned troops.

reased in volume toward the extreme left, and his captain complimented him for the conflict seemed to grow fiercer than at any his conduct. The conduct of the entire force and smoke begrimmed faces of men who had ished wolves. There seemed to be a fee behind previous time. This was about six o'clock, and that day was admirable. The regulars, who had fought yesterday, were concomitants of every tree; but the old hero and his gallant sol

asketry seemed mingled into the grand roar of and red scull caps, emulated their regular commopy of smoke was so thick that the sun was and regulars alike won glory on that bloody

he twenty-seven preceding days and nights.

guns opened a furious storm of shell upon him: were on horseback nearly all night, ordering back, our lads yelling at them triumphantly.

But apprehensions about Porter's battle had

ing up the stragglers with a round turn. Grif- termination on the part of Gen. McClellan to

I I PREPARATIONS FOR RETREAT.

We had fourteen batteries—84 pieces—in the confusion and distress, which oppressed me our flanks, Morrell was moving behind Keyes, ield, and often not half could be used to advantage there. I found officers end-avoring to fight off tage. Martin's, Tidball's and Weeden's were most serviceable. Tidball's was on the extreme right, and, to the enemy, was an object of special attention. Lieut. Col. Dennison, son of except the external signs were demonstrative. The wretched special attention of the external signs were demonstrative. The wretched special attention of the army too sharply to be deluded by thin masks. Other external signs were demonstrative. The wretched special attention of the army too sharply to be deluded by thin masks. Other external signs were demonstrative. The wretched special attention of the army too sharply to be deluded by thin masks. Other external signs were demonstrative. The wretched special attention of the army too sharply to be deluded by thin masks. Other external signs were demonstrative. The wretched special attention of the army too sharply to be deluded by thin masks. Other external signs were demonstrative. The wretched special attention of the army too sharply to be deluded by thin masks. Other external signs were demonstrative. The wretched special attention of the first stone meaning. Anxiety at headquarters was too apparent to one who had studied that branch represent to one who had studied that branch repre previous time. This was about six o'clock, and as I galloped over the field, I looked back and around upon the most subline scene that the around upon the most subline scene that the fall ires of cannon flashing against the dusky hundreds who had straggled from the field, horizen, playing on the surface of the evening Duryea's Zouaves, clad in crimson breeches sprawled upon every space where there was a clouds like sharp magnetic lights. Long lines quently, faltered in the fight. Sumner's corps sun: a burry and tumult of wagons and artillery pestilential lead through the forests, sweeping and then moved quietly and swiftly back, under BATTLE IN FRONT.

Meantime, while tumult raged over in the forst. evertement was scarcely less thrilling in

voted scidiers during those days of minuterious, it was unequal combat—conflict not simply with supe defeat their movements. At all events, it was and Col. Chapman's brigades. These brigades camp of Smith's division, found that they number of battle. The invasible from the main line of battle. The invasible from the main line of battle. The seens was now exciting in the highest degree up the narrow road already. Gen. Sumner's, enfeebing bent, overpowering fatigue—and after the brigade had been command. A part of the brigade had been and furious, and the rebel guns were howling rear, with orders to fall back at daylight, and withdrawn by the right flank, and with them away as merrily. The air was filled with burst- hold the enemy in check till night. A noble General Butterfield, who, notwithstanding the ing shells and suffused with sulphurous smoke, thousand dangers that he risked, escaped un while the forests were obscured with musket mist must fall to save the rest. The very slightest harmed, one bullet having passed through the Our picket reserves, however, held their ground movement from the front was critical. At no who were exceedingly well posted, gave them rim of his hat, and another bent his sword manfully, and the enemy was briskly driven point along the line were we more than threefourths of a mile from the enemy, and in front Hancock was victorious after a bitter fight, in of Sedgwick's line, they were not over 600 When the left gave way, the center, and which two Georgia regiments were almost cut to yards distant. The slightest vibration at any finally the right was also pressed back, and the pieces. Our loss, though not half so great as retreating columns soon became mingled into that of the enemy, was one of the smartest and to wings. But fortunately, by skillful secrecy, column after column was marched to the rearports having fallen back, Allen's, Weeden's J. Q. C. Lamar, of the 1st Georgia regiment, Franklin first, Sedgwick next, then Richardson and Hooker, and lastly, the knightly Kearney. A mile had been swiftly traversed, when these splendid columns quickly turned at bay. The moment was most thrilling, most trying to stoutest nerves. The enemy, keen scented and watchful, had discovered the retrograde, and quick as thought were swarming through our late impassable entanglements, and came yelling at our heels like insatiste savages. Full

soon our camps had hived countless numbers and red battle began to stamp his foot. Gallant Burns was first to feel the shock. One of his favorite regiments-Baxter's Philadelphia Fire trusty fellows to fire. A basketful of cannister, vanced at double-quick up the hill, forming in line of battle beyond the hospital, and swoop lirst time we heard a whisper of a serious deleft of that slaughtered column of rebels fled howling to the rear. Fresh masses poured out fin's and Martin's batteries likewise did good "change his base of operations (?) to James and were sent surging back again until finally service in checking the advance of the enemy, river." It was considered a most critical move they stood aloof, content to watch and wait a pouring canister into their ranks with terrible ment—especially under compulsion. You have happier moment to assail that desperate front effect. Probably the greatest carnage of this already heard some, and you will hear many Meantime almost every vestige of camp furnibloody day was produced by the meessant dis- more explanations of this calamitous but neces- ture which had been left in camp had been charges of double-shotted canister from the sitous plan, but I sincerely believe it never examined by the enemy with disappointment bronze Napoleons of Martin's battery. He had would have been attempted but for the attack on and rage. We had destroyed all we could not

stroy the public property which had accumulated Even before Porter had been driven back, I swiftly down the road, with a train of cars, and was struck with the singular operations at gen- soon plunged madly into Chickshominy, a eral headquarters. I discovered that they were mangled wreck. The match was applied to being removed to Savage's Station, and a com- stores of every description, and ammunition was setent officer explained gravely that it was exploded, until nothing was left to appeare the thought advisable to go there, although it was rebel appetite for prey. Destruction was comin the rear of our left wing. After dark there plete, and the ruins were more touchingly desoners played upon his exposed ranks with fearful formed a junction with Lee, and soon attacked of the fresh troops having sheeked the enemy, line the rear of our left wing. After dark there piete, and the ruins were infect. The fight sequed to increase in fury as our right with great vigor and pertinacity, but and night coming on, the conflict ceased, and confided to their staffs their fears of coming disconfided to their staffs their fears of coming dis- ness, who laid on the hillside mourning the de-The brigades of Gens. French and Meagher of operations in the face of an enemy, is regarded up in the book of memory, never to be ed by military authorities as one of the most opened to the human heart. Many a manifested one broken columns, and did excellent serior of the most opened to the fine that all human sorrow dangerous enterprises. In our situation it was low has told me since that all human sorrow dangerous enterprises. sant and deafoning for hours. At times it seemed as if fifty guns exploded simultaneously and then ran off at intervals into splendid file fing—if I may apply infantry descriptive terms to cannonading. But no language can describe to awful grandeur. The enemy at last essayed to cannonading. But no language can describe its awful grandeur. The enemy at last essayed to cannonading when the stimes with fight of many panic stricks on the flight of many panic stricks. The enemy in front and then ran off at intervals into splendid file brigade, in which are the Durysa Zonaves and Badix's 10th New York regiment played a brilliant part in this portion of the engagement, its awful grandeur. The enemy at last essayed the Zonaves especially fighting with a desperation. With our force, we could not hold our positions against an enemy in front and rear longer than supplies on hand would be bright of many panic stricks on the flight of many panic stricks. The enemy is front that one to have a case of desperation. With our force, we could not hold our positions against an enemy in front and rear longer than supplies on hand would be bright of these front front

> of mingled confusion, and direful disorder, had hannock route or by York river, since they would had now been swallowed in the maw of the been obliterated; yes, literally crushed, and be cut off inevitably. There was but one ex- dreary forest. It swept onward, enward, fast comparative order restored out of almost chaos, by the prompt, energetic and fearless action of fall back on James river. A hope was enterbrave officers. As the rushing and retreating tained that the enemy would be deceived into precious to us. Pioneer bands were rushing tide began to pour precipitately toward the the belief that we designed to fall back to the along in front, clearing and repairing our single bridge, a dozen officers in my own sight drew White House. Preparations were accordingly road; reconnoissance officers were seeking new their subers and pistols, placed themselves in begun. Porter's command crossed the river routes for a haven of rest and safety. The enemy was in the rear pressing on with fearful During the night, our bridges were blown up power. He could press down flankward to our rallied and formed column after column of men and the crossings were barricaded and defended. front, cutting off our retreat. Would such be from the broken mass that swept over the plain. Keyes' line, which was on the extreme left rest- our fate? The vanguard had passed White Oak There are some facts which my friend did not ing upon White Oak Swamp, was prolonged bridge and had risen to a fine defensive post

I now proceed to Savage Station. I shall not bridge, were now moved two miles beyond. across their track, waved his bullet shattered attempt to describe the sombre picture of gloom, Keyen corps was forward. Sykes was guarding shadow of a leaf to protect them from a broiling of musketry vomited their furious volleys of trains, endless almost, rushing down the roads scores of brave soldiers into the valley of the toward the new base, moving with a sort of or- shadow of death. And nature now, as if emuderly confusion, almost as distressing as panic lous of man's fury, flashed its red artillery, and itself. But I venture that few of all that hasten-rolled its grand thunder over the domes of Rich ing throng, excepting old officers, understood the mond now miles to the right of us. Moment

for battle; but it was evident they had begun to inquire into the situation. Some apprehen
was ever more solemnly impressive.

Ist, 2d, and 6th regular cavalry, which had be to inquire into the situation. Some apprehen
Nothing struck me so keenly during all that

paration. A haughty and revengeful foe con- was apparent that the whole army would be fident in victory and numbers, pressed us to the safely in position before sunset unless the snewall, and that spirit of resistance which should my should attack. nflame every army of the North against those who war upon constitutional liberty, met them their dens. It was a Sunday battle.

HEAVEN'S ARTHLERY right wing in darkness. Many who suspected they might be victims of a dulusiou-most natu- our column in twain. ral in that critical period, when nothing but the sound of cannon and musketry had been the from the road into the field before Turkey Bend, most familiar sound of our camps for mouths- and our reserve artillery was powerfully posted riticised their senses sharply, but still the up- on Malvern hill, a magnificent bluff, covering our was so wonderfully like battle, that we Hardin's Landing, where our gunboats were could not shake the opinion from our minds that | cruising. Here was a glorious prospect. Though a night fight was going on. Five minutes elapsed, I suppose, before the ragged crown of herce enemy at bay to cover the swiftly escaping a black cloud in the distance reared itself above trains, it was clear our troubles were not ended. the forests, and dispelled the gloomy deception. We had again deceived the enemy by going to Morning beamed upon us again brilliantly but Turkey Bend. He had imagined we were hotly. We thanked heaven that it had not marching to New Market, destined to a point on rained. The enemy had not yet appeared in our front. Summer had brought off his splendid ommand. Franklin was posted strongly on his troops upon us on the left, and on our new the south bank of White Oak Creek, Heintzelman was on his left, Keyes' corps was moving swiftly to James river down the Charles City | Keyes taking the right, Porter's corps the leftand Quaker road, Porter and part of Sumuer's as we faced Richmond. Our line now described corps were following rapidly.

the history of yesterday's bitter conflict was cated with the gunboats, returned from the front sketched for me in the haggard features of the to Malvern Hills, which were made his battleweary men who had fallen exhausted into their headquarters, and dispositions for a final emerforest bivousc. Brave old Sumner's face bore gency were made. Fitz John Porter, was traces of the exceristing tire of battle, but his marched from the valley under the hill to his eatures were radiant with smiles. He was clo- postion on the western crest of the hill, where ment in his praises of his command. "Burns he could rake the plains toward Richmond. Our had borne the brunt of the fight, and he did it splendid artillery was picturesquely poised in magnificently, sir." Sodgwick, who had been fan shape at salient points, and its supports sick for days, had stemmed the torrent grimly. His first words were, "B., that was Burns' fight. tween undulations of the bluff. Powerful con-He showed himself a splendid soldier. Let the centrating batteries were also posted in the cenworld know his merits. He deserves all you can ter so that, to use the language of Col. Switzer, say." Sadgwick seldom praises men. But he is a gallant soldier himself, and he appreciates they take it." It was a magnificent spectacle. merit. I found Gen. Burns stretched under a You see, friend, how desperate was the hour. lofty pire, and his warriors were slumbering The roar of combat graw tremendous as the afaround him painfully. His eyes were hollow and termeon were away. There was no time then bloodshot, his handsome features pale and thin : nor afterwards to ascertain dispositions of parhis beard and his clothing were clotted with ticular organizations. They were thrown to blood; his face was bandaged, concealing a ragged and painful wound in his nether jaw. was enough to make a sphynx weep to look the banks of Turkey Creek, were enveloped in and under favorable suspices, to change a plan lought. Would that such pictures could be battle cries, and tremulous with emotion, when lence. A masked battery which had opened my friend, many of my poor fellows lie in prove inconvenient to Porter. It plowed and those forests. It is terrible to leave them there, crashed through some of our wagons, and dis-Blackeney is wounded-McGonegal is gone, turbed groups of officers in the splendid groves of We are hungry and exhausted, and the enemy -the forest is full of people-are thundering at site side of Turkey island, and the Arostock. our heels. It is an awful affliction. We will cruising at the head of the island, opened their fight them, feeble as we are-but with what ports and plunged their awful metal into the ope?" To know such a man, to feel how keen- rebel cover with Titanic force. Toward sugget he realized the situation, to wach his quiver- the earth quivered with the terrific concussion ing lips and sad play of features, usually so of artillery, and huge explosions. The wast yous-oh, friends, it was anguish itself. And periel auditorium seemed convulsed with the here was a townsman of yours there, who won commetion of frightful sounds. Shells raced onel, who but one short week ago took com- each other at eccentric angles, exploding into mand of the 1st California regiment. He handled it like a veteran, and behaved like a Bayard. His new command, fired by his enthusi- white tumes, through which even the fierce blane asm, and daring even beyond their old prowess, of a setting summer's sun could but grimly pendone deeds which General Summer himself said etrate. Softly puffing above the dark curtain of

hat, expostulated, exhorted, entreated, threat ened, imprecated, under a storm of lead, and at last, throwing his bat, in agony of despair, upon itself so conspiciously, that in happier times their names will be inscribed in general orders. But there was such a number of regiments and officers engaged that the record would make a volume. Suffice it that none but those I exheld the field till Heitzelman's corps had retired,

cover of night and the forests, scross White

Our trains had now passed White Oak bridge

Such an achievement, in such order, under the freumstances, might well be regarded wonder nl. The retreat was most ably conducted Until this day (Monday) the enemy seems coustantly to have operated upon the supposition that our army was intending to retire to the Pamunkey. They had been deluded into this belief by the 17th New York and 18th Massachusetts regiments, together with part of the ander fire ever since, as they had been during sive officers had caught a hint of the mysteries gloomy day and more desolate night, as the to impress the enemy with that notion. (Par in the twenty-seven preceding days and nights which prevailed. The trains were ordered to thinly disguised uneasiness of those to whom and are now at Malvern Hill.) But one trains The world never before witnessed more devoted move, troops to held themselves in readiness to the country had intrusted its fate. It was well and are now at Malvern Hill.) But our true courage.

Smith's division at Gouldin's, on the edge of Chickahominy valley, and Sadgwick's on his left, occupied the most sensitive points on the whole line, since Fair Oaks. They threatened the key of the rebel position before Richmond. Hanceck's and Burns' brigades held the most exposed lines. The former had taken a critical position in front of his intrenchments with a strong battery. It was altogether probable the enemy would attempt to drive him back. The attempoon was wearing away wearily without senious demonstrations, and we had begun to suspect the enemy of some sinister design in remaining so undemonstrative. It was probably four or five o'clock, however, when, without promoting the force pressed strongly upon Gen. Burns' picket line. He sent word instantly to Hancock to prepare for action. The latter was vigilant, but he had hardly received the courty had intrated its faite. It was well intat soldiers who carry muskets did not read that so diders who carry muskets did not read that so diders who carry muskets did not read that so diders who carry muskets did not read that so diders who carry muskets did not read that so diders who carry muskets did not read that so diders who carry muskets did not read that so diders who carry muskets did not read that so divers upon the face of that leader whom they had learned to love. A few in that so diders who carry muskets did not read that so divers the soph that so divers upon the face of that leader whom they had learned to love. A few in that so diders who carry muskets did not read that so divers upon the face of that leader when high that so diders who carry muskets did not read the sount problems and the sount problems and the sount problems and the sount stream of the sount problems and the sount problems and the sount problems and the sount problems and the sount problems an That battle in the forests was a contest of des. cavatry. We were getting on admirably, and it

BATTLE OF WHITE OAK SWAME.

About 10 o'clock, Gen. McClellan pushed to hand to hand, steel to steel, and drove them to the river, communicating with Com. Rodgers. against the enemy. The cause was desperate, That night there was another strange meteor- but it was a relief to reach the river where we logical phenomenon. I suppose it was about could turn at bay with our rear protected by the dnight. The lights at headquarters were still James, and flanks partially covered by gundazing. The commander was yet working with boats. Tidings, however, had been received myjelding devotion; aids were still riding fast; that the enemy was pushing swiftly upon us in ut all else was silent. I had just fallen into several columns of immense numbers, appadumber—the first during two weary nights— rently determined to crush us, or drive us into when I was startled by what we all thought was | the river that night. They opened fiercely with the terrific uproar of battle. Again and again it shell upon Smith's division at White Oak bridge. thundered, and rolled sublimely away off on the After burning down the house of a good secasborders of Chickshominy. For some moments sionist and breaking his leg, the enemy extend-we feared the enemy had crossed the river be-ed his line of fire and soon engaged our entire hind our rear guard, and was destroying our rear guard, striking at Slocum, who was guarding against a flank movement designed to cut.

Long before this our vauguard had debouched Cliff Bottom road near Fort Darling. It was not far away, and the enemy was massing wings of the army as organized were reversed, a great arc and there was fighting around three-

fourths of the perimeter. Gen. McClellan, who had already communi-"we'll clothe this bill in sheets of flame before Oak bridge, the Quaker road, Charles City road, Malvern mansion. The gunboat Galena, anchored on the oppo-

until other was displaced by a vast cloud of entitled them to the glory of heroes. So hot forest which masked the battle-field, there was was the fight and so hot the work, that Jones | another fleece which struggled through the dense once fell headlong from his horse, from exhaust- foliage like heavy mist clouds, and streaming ion, but recovering soon, he resumed his sword upward in curious eddles with the ever varying and again led his gallant fellows to the charge. current of the winds, mingled with, and ab-Gen. Burns speaks so warmly of the devotion sorbed the canopy of smoke which floated from and heroism of Geo. Hicks, of Cambles, and the surface of the plains and river. The battle-Blakeney, and G. iffiiths, his staff and his colo- stained sun, sinking majestically into the horinels, Morehead, Baxter, and Owen, their coun- zon behind Richmond, burnished the fringe of trymen should know their worth. So Sedgwick gossamer with lurid and golden glory; and as speaks of his adjutant, Capt. Sedgwick, and of fantastic columns capriciously whited up from Howe, his aid. So Sumner speaks of Clark, and the woods, they were suddenly transformed into of Kipp, and of Tompkins, of Col. Sully, and pillars of lambent flame, radiant with exquisite of all in his command. In that fray Sedgwick's beauty, which would soon separate into a thou-